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75

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From Wilberforce and U.D.

CHARLES PIERCE FIRST

TO RECEIVE DUAL DEGREE IN ENGINEERING

Dayton, Ohio, July 29, 1975 --- Charles Pierce of Philadelphia, Pa. will become the first student to receive a dual degree in engineering from the University of Dayton and Wilberforce University at U.D.'s commencement Aug. 3.

The dual degree program was begun in January of 1973 as a way of increasing the number of black engineers while still allowing students who wished to attend Wilberforce. Wilberforce, a predominately black school, has no school of engineering. Forty five Wilberforce students are presently enrolled in the dual degree program.

The Pierce family will be collecting three degrees this month. Five days after U.D.'s commencement, Pierce and his wife, Barbara also will receive degrees from Wilberforce. Pierce will graduate with a major in math. His wife majored in accounting.

"General Electric gets first chance at me because they're the ones who encouraged me in engineering," Pierce says. He worked two trimesters at General Electric. All Wilberforce students are required to work at cooperative jobs for four trimesters out of their five years of study. The experience is an adjunct to education as well as a way of meeting college expenses.